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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4027

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives McCune and Dunn

Prefiled 1/6/2006. Read first time . Referred to .

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3            REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4            UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6            the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7            represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, Although the right of free expression is part of the  
9            foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn  
10           limits on expression in specific instances have long been recognized as  
11           a legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as  
12           orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

13           WHEREAS, Certain actions, although arguably related to a person's  
14           freedom of expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public  
15           decency, public peace, and the rights of expression and sacred values  
16           of others; and

17           WHEREAS, There are symbols of our national soul such as the  
18           Washington Monument, the United States Capitol Building, and memorials  
19           of our greatest leaders, which are the property of every American and  
20           are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

1       WHEREAS, The American Flag to this day is the most honorable and  
2 worthy banner of a nation that is thankful for its strengths and  
3 committed to curing its faults, and remains the destination of millions  
4 of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal;  
5 and

6       WHEREAS, The law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court  
7 no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect, and  
8 dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment of a  
9 nation-state; and

10       WHEREAS, It is only fitting that people everywhere should lend  
11 their voices to a forceful call for a restoration of the Stars and  
12 Stripes to a proper station under law and decency;

13       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
14 Congress of the United States propose an amendment of the United States  
15 Constitution, for ratification by the states, specifying that Congress  
16 and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical  
17 desecration of the flag of the United States.

18       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
19 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
20 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
21 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
22 Washington.

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